

MR. BRYAN IN PITTSBURGH

News item in the Pittsburgh Post: In the role of a defender of the Christian religion against atheists and of an exponent of that religion to its followers, William Jennings Bryan, the thrice defeated candidate of the democratic party for the presidency, and whom many members of that party are determined to make the standard bearer for a fourth campaign, attracted the attention of a considerable portion of the people of Pittsburgh and the borough of Greensburg. He gave convincing evidence to those who heard him that not all the able preachers of the country are drawing salaries as the occupants of pulpits.

It will not be news to those who have followed Bryan's career to learn that he is a deeply religious man and a great religious orator. He has many times spoken or written on religious subjects, and given testimony to his belief that the Christian religion is a great boon to the world. But his appearance in this vicinity in this connection was exceptional. At three great meetings in three great addresses he poured forth a wealth of eloquence on the subject, which to the minds of hundreds of those who heard any portion of it proved him to be entitled to rank among the world's great preachers.

Throughout the day, too, he refused to devote any considerable portion of his attention to politics, although invited to do so at every turn. He would not talk politics for publication and he held no political conferences.

News item in Pittsburgh Post: Senators and representatives of the United States listened to the voice and heeded the advice of William Jennings Bryan in Washington, D. C. Together, he and these men, out-

lined the legislative program that is to guide the destiny of 100,000,000 men and women, the American nation.

This same man stood on a rough board platform in a Pennsylvania town and preached the gospel of Jesus Christ for two and one-half hours to 5,000 men of the mines and mills and factories. They listened, these workmen of Greensburg, as their lawmakers had listened the day before. In the great, low evangelistic tabernacle the long rows of men sat motionless, as the speaker told them how to live. He preached them a sermon, a revival sermon. He justified and defended the existence of a God, the infallibility of the Bible, the saving power of the Savior, the joy of a Christian life. It was not an appeal to the emotions. It was more than that. Every sentence was clean cut, logical, sequential. It was an appeal to intellect.

And they listened. They never smiled, they forgot to applaud, they forgot to nod approval. There was not even the subdued, restless murmur associated with nearly every crowd.

Editorial in Pittsburgh Sun: It was as a defender of "the old faith" of the Christian religion that William Jennings Bryan, "thrice defeated," swept Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania with his "peerless oratory," speaking in several churches. And yet it was in language so plain that a child could understand practically every word of it and in a style of oratory that appealed with earnestness; not once did he employ the art of oratory for the mere effect of it. He simply pointed out that for more than 1900 years the Christian religion has been a living force in the uplift of humanity, and that the faith in it is higher today than ever it was. This he offered as the conclusion drawn from his own study and observation; he will forsake it only when a better religion and a better Bible than that on which it is founded are produced.

He invited comparison of the teaching of Christ with that of Confucius, of Buddha, of any other great religious teacher—which has done the most good? That was the test, he said.

He invited the same comparison of the Bible with the other sacred books. Which is the best as judged by the effect of it?

In these comparisons he saw Christ and the Bible superior to them all, and he challenged the world to show influences better than theirs.

Speaking of faith, he said the man was short-sighted who could see no further than his intellect. It is the things that he can see with the eye of faith that are the greatest. There are miracles being performed every day and all about us; we can see the effect of love, but we never saw love. We can see the effect of life, but we never saw life. If one would reject Christ because of the miracle claimed for His life, he might as well reject his own life on the same grounds.

Then Mr. Bryan spoke of those who try to solve the universe. He himself has been unable to solve the miracle of the radish that grows in his garden. He doubts if the scientists have solved it, either. His conclusion is that man will find mystery all about him and all the time. It is not necessary that he know all things. He has been taught enough to know that confidence in the wisdom of the Supreme Intellect back of all things is sufficient purpose for his own life. He exists because there is a reason for his existence, and his duty is pointed out to him.

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